

Information for Business and Industry

The Weighmaster Enforcement Program seeks to provide customer confidence when buying or selling bulk products based on quantities represented on a weighmaster certificate by ensuring uniformity, fairness and honest competition in the marketplace. Over 78 billion dollars a year changes hands in California's economy that is based on weighmaster certificates.

The Division of Measurement Standards Investigators and Specialists, working jointly with county weights and measures officials, enforce California's weighmaster laws and regulations within the State.

A weighmaster is a person or business that, for hire or otherwise, weighs, measures, or counts a commodity and issues a written statement of that quantity, referred to as a weighmaster certificate. It is a legal document used as the basis to buy or sell the commodity described on the certificate.

Weighmaster certificate formats are as varied as the weighmasters who issue them and the commodities indicated on them. Weighmasters generally order their certificates from a printing company or generate their certificates using their own computer software. Although weighmaster certificates are not required to be approved by the California State Division of Measurement Standards, it is recommended that a sample certificate be sent in for review with any new weighmaster license application.

All [weighmaster certificates](#) are required by law to have certain information that must be completed prior to issuance. Some of the required information includes: the name of the licensed weighmaster company, the weighmaster legend; and they must describe the commodity weighed, measured or counted. Certificates must be dated and signed by a deputy weighmaster.

Charges for a service can also be based on the quantity represented on the weighmaster certificate. Charges for moving household goods is one example of this. A weighmaster may also provide a weighing service to the public or other businesses, for a fee, and issue weighmaster certificates for the customer's use. This type of location is known as a public scale. A weighmaster is not required to provide weighing services to the general public. It is at their discretion.

Businesses that are licensed as weighmasters include, but are not limited to, agricultural processors, dealers, packers, and growers; livestock feed yards and auction yards; construction including rock, sand, gravel, earth, concrete, and asphalt paving materials; bulk fertilizers; landscape companies that make deliveries; fish processors; scrap and salvage materials; timber; wineries; moving and storage; and general transportation companies.

The [laws](#) and [regulations](#) relating to weighmasters are found in the California Business and Professions Code and the California Code of Regulations. To obtain a license the person or business must complete the [application form](#) and submit it with the proper fees and other required information. No person shall issue certificates without first being licensed as a weighmaster. The principal weighmaster may name anyone as a deputy weighmaster by submitting their name to the Division of Measurement Standards and is responsible for the acts performed by its deputies. A [deputy weighmaster self help exam](#) and an [instruction sheet for deputies](#) is available on the website. The Division of Measurement Standards can also be contacted for on-site deputy group training.

Violations of the weighmaster laws are misdemeanors. Violators may be subject to civil or criminal proceedings. Additionally, a complaint may be filed with the district attorney against them for violations.